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Information Service Washington Office: Suite 808, The Farragut Building, Washington DC, 20006 • Telephone: 296-5131, Area Code 202 • Cable: EUROCOM • Telex: WN-065

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INCLUDED IN EURATOM-U.S. JOINT PROGRAM

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WASHINGTON, D. C., October 17 --- The Euratom Commission and the SENA (Société d'énergie nucléaire Franco-Belge des Ardennes) today were scheduled to sign an agreement providing for SENA's participation in the Euratom-United States joint power program.

The SENA power plant will be built on the Franco-Belgian border and equipped with a pressurized-water reactor of a 210 MWE minimum net capacity, eventually to be raised to 266 MWE.

The 150 MWE Italian SENN plant and the 237 MWE German KRB plant, now under construction, were the first two reactors under the joint program.

Euratom has also loaned \$16.25 million to SENA, which had been transferred to its account by the Export-Import Bank. The SENA Company is owned equally by the French Electrical Power Authority and the Société Belge Centre et Sud, composed of five Belgian power companies. Contracts for the supply of equipment and construction of the plant were awarded to the ACEC, Cockeril Ougree, MMN, Framatome, and Westinghouse (AFW). The civil engineering work is being carried out by the group Société générale d'entreprises - Compagnie industrielle de travaux - Société centrale d'entreprises - Entreprises générales et matériaux.

The SENA project previously had received \$8 million under the Euratom program of participation in power reactors. SENA also enjoys the status of a joint enterprise under the terms of the Euratom Treaty.

The research and development program, established under the Euratom/United States agreement, will provide benefits for the SENA plant. The R and D program is aimed at improving the efficiency of reactors such as those built under the joint power reactor program and at lowering fuel cycle costs.